CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a client system, an automated method for assisting a user of the client system in retrieving and browsing information, the method comprising:

retrieving and displaying on a display of the client system a first information page responsive to user direction; and

additionally displaying on the display a plurality of dynamically assembled information source identifiers identifying a plurality of information sources for user selection, wherein the information source identifiers are dynamically assembled, based at least in part on dynamically determined content of said first information page.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said additionally displaying comprises performing on said client system in real time, analysis of the first information page to determine presence of first keywords.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said analysis comprises performing on said client system in real time, scanning of said first information page for unique nouns presence, accessing a current table of keywords on the client system to determine if any of the unique nouns are to be considered as keywords, and outputting those unique nouns that should be so considered as the presence ones of said first keywords.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises designating to

2   a browser of the client system a first of a plurality of tables of keywords on the client

3   system as the current table of keywords of the client system.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the method further comprises

2   loading/downloading said plurality of tables of keywords onto the client system.

6.   The method of claim 2, wherein said additional displaying further comprises

2   performing on said client system in real time, retrieval of second keywords related to

3   the presence ones of first keywords from one or more tables of related keywords on

4   said client system, using said presence ones of first keywords.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein said additional displaying further comprises

2   performing on said client system in real time, retrieval of information source

3   identifiers identifying information sources having information associated with the

4   second keywords from one or more information source tables on said client system,

5   using said second keywords.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises

2   loading/downloading said one or more tables of information sources onto the client

3   system.

9.   The method of claim 2, wherein said additional displaying further comprises

2   performing on the client system in real time, assembly of the plurality of information

3   source identifiers dynamically identified based at least in part on presence ones of

4   first keywords in said information page.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein said additional displaying comprises

2   performing on the client system in real time, transmission to a server a selected one

3   of (a) a locator of the first information page, (b) a plurality of unique nouns of the first

4   information page, (c) a plurality of first keywords present in the first information

5   page, and (d) a plurality of second keywords related to the first keywords.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, wherein said first information page is an information

2   page constituted using a mark-up language, and said information sources comprises

3   servers serving information pages so constituted.

1   12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises additionally

2   displaying on said display a thumbnail of a second information page corresponding

3   to a first of the information sources.

1   13.   The method of claim 12, wherein said additional displaying of a thumbnail

2   comprises performing on said client system in real time, a selected one of (a)

3   retrieving said thumbnail and (b) retrieving said second information page and

4   dithering said retrieved second information page to form said thumbnail.

1   14.   The method of claim 12, wherein said additional displaying of a thumbnail is

2   made responsive to proximate placement of a cursor next to a first information

3   source identifier corresponding to said first information source.

1   15.   In a client system, an automated method for assisting a user of the client

2   system to retrieve and browse information, the method comprising:

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3   presenting on a display of the client system, a plurality of dynamically

4   constituted information source identifiers identifying a plurality of information sources

5   for user selection, based at least in part on presence ones of first keywords in a first

6   information page; and

7   presenting on the display, responsive to a user event, a thumbnail of a

8   second information page corresponding to a first of the identified information

9   sources.

1   16.   The method of claim 15, wherein said presenting of the thumbnail comprises

2   performing on the client system in real time, a selected one of (a) retrieving said

3   thumbnail and (b) retrieving said second information page, and dithering said

4   retrieved second information page to form said thumbnail.

1   17.   The method of claim 15, wherein said presenting of the thumbnail is made

2   responsive to proximate placement of a cursor next to a first information source

3   identifier corresponding to the first information source.

1   18.   In a server system, an automated method for facilitating provision of

2   assistance to a user of a networked client system to retrieve and browse

3   information, the method comprising:

4   receiving from said client system dynamically determined related first

5   keywords of presence ones of second keywords in a first information page being

6   browsed on said client system; and

7   in response, providing to said client system a plurality of information source

8   identifiers identifying a plurality information sources, based at least in part on said

9   received related first keywords.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises providing to

2   said client system a thumbnail of a second information page corresponding to a first

3   of said information source identifiers.

1   20.   The method of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises retrieving said

2   second information page and dithering said second information page to form said

3   thumbnail.

21.   In a server system, an automated method for facilitating provision of

2   assistance to a user of a networked client system to retrieve and browse

3   information, the method comprising:

4   receiving from said client system dynamically determined presence ones of

5   first keywords in a first information page being browsed on said client system; and

6   in response, providing to said client system a plurality of information source

7   identifiers identifying a plurality information sources, based at least in part on said

8   received presence ones of first keywords.

1   22.   The method of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises dynamically

2   determining related second keywords of said presence ones of first keywords; and

3   said providing of information source identifiers to said client system is made based

4   at least in part on said dynamically determined related second keywords.

1   23.   The method of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises providing to

2   said client system a thumbnail of a second information page corresponding to a first

3   of said information source identifiers.

1   24.   The method of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises retrieving said

2   second information page and dithering said second information page to form said

3   thumbnail.

1   25.   In a server system, an automated method for facilitating provision of

2   assistance to a user of a networked client system to retrieve and browse

3   information, the method comprising:

4   receiving from said client system dynamically determined unique nouns of a

5   first information page being browsed on said client system; and

6   in response, providing to said client system a plurality of information source

7   identifiers identifying a plurality information sources, based at least in part on said

8   received unique nouns.

1   26.   The method of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises dynamically

2   determining presence ones of first keywords in said information page using said

3   received unique nouns; and said providing of information source identifiers to said

4   client system is made based at least in part on said dynamically determined

5   presence ones of first keywords.

1   27.   The method of claim 26, wherein the method further comprises dynamically

2   determining related second keywords of said presence ones of first keywords; and

3   said providing of information source identifiers to said client system is further made

4   based at least in part on said dynamically determined related second keywords.

1   28.   The method of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises providing to

2   said client system a thumbnail of a second information page corresponding to a first

3   of said information source identifiers.

1   29.   The method of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises retrieving said

2   second information page and dithering said second information page to form said

3   thumbnail.

1   30.   In a server system, an automated method for facilitating provision of

2   assistance to a user of a networked client system to retrieve and browse

3   information, the method comprising:

4   receiving from said client system a locator of a first information page being

5   browsed on said client system; and

6   in response, providing to said client system a plurality of information source

7   identifiers identifying a plurality information sources, based at least in part on

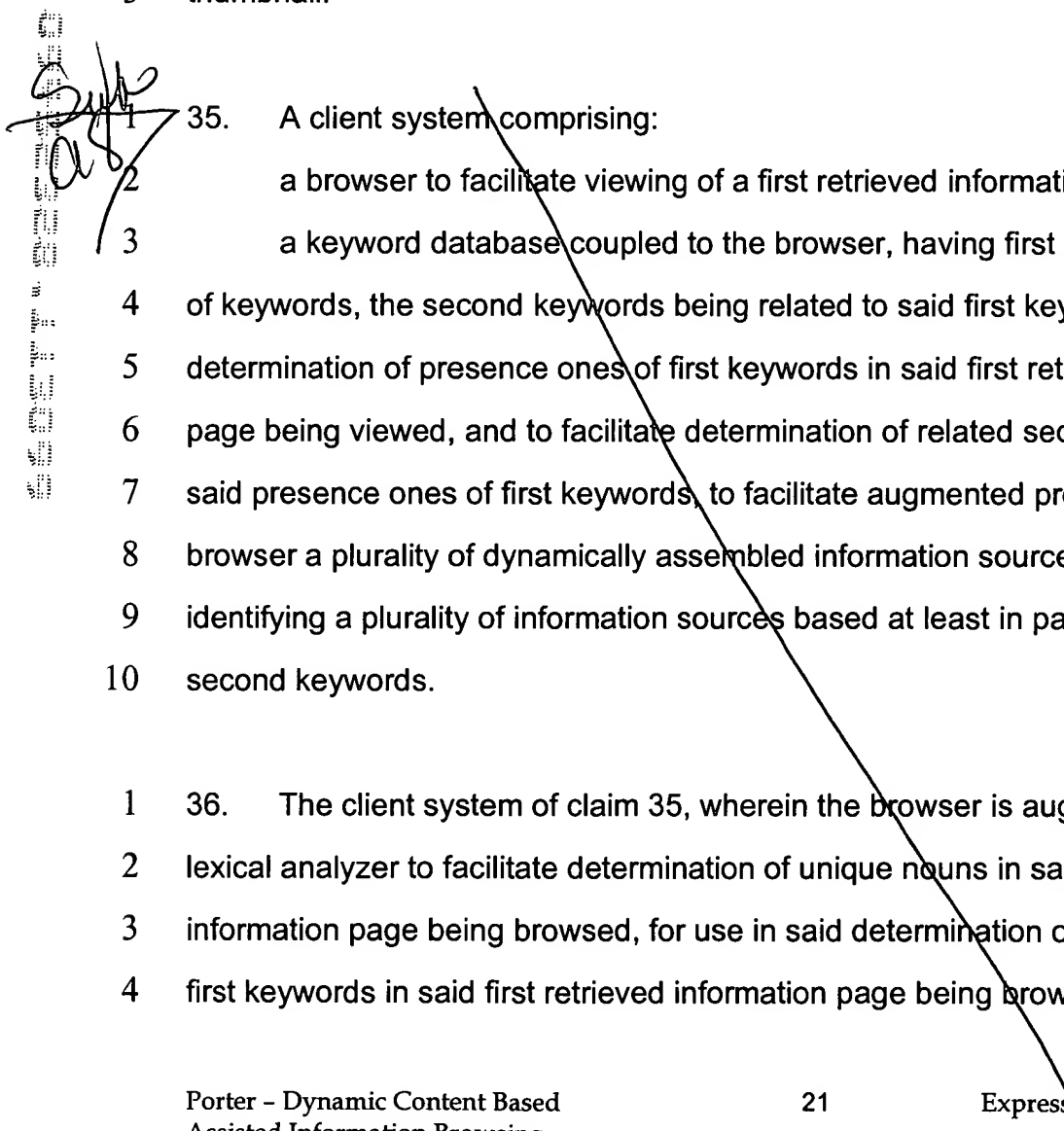8   dynamically determined content of the first information page.

1   31.   The method of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises retrieving said

2   first information page and dynamically determining presence ones of first keywords

3   in said information page; and said providing of information source identifiers to said

4   client system is made based at least in part on said dynamically determined

5   presence ones of first keywords.

1   32.   The method of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises dynamically

2   determining related second keywords of said presence ones of first keywords; and

3   said providing of information source identifiers to said client system is further made

4   based at least in part on said dynamically determined related second keywords.

1   33.   The method of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises providing to

2   said client system a thumbnail of a second information page corresponding to a first

3   of said information source identifiers.

1   34.   The method of claim 33, wherein the method further comprises retrieving said

2   second information page and dithering said second information page to form said

3   thumbnail.

35.   A client system comprising:

2   a browser to facilitate viewing of a first retrieved information page; and

3   a keyword database coupled to the browser, having first and second plurality

4   of keywords, the second keywords being related to said first keywords, to facilitate

5   determination of presence ones of first keywords in said first retrieved information

6   page being viewed, and to facilitate determination of related second keywords of

7   said presence ones of first keywords, to facilitate augmented provision by said

8   browser a plurality of dynamically assembled information source identifiers

9   identifying a plurality of information sources based at least in part on said related

10   second keywords.

1   36.   The client system of claim 35, wherein the browser is augmented with a

2   lexical analyzer to facilitate determination of unique nouns in said first retrieved

3   information page being browsed, for use in said determination of presence ones of

4   first keywords in said first retrieved information page being browsed.

1   37.   The client system of claim 35, wherein the client system further comprises an

2   information source database having said second keywords and a plurality of

3   associated information source identifiers to facilitate said augmented provision of

4   dynamically assembled information source identifiers by said browser.

1   38.   The client system of claim 35, wherein the client system further comprises a

2   dithering module to dither a second retrieved information page to generate a

3   thumbnail of the second retrieved information page.

1   39.   A server system comprising:

     a network interface to couple the server system to a network;

     an information source database having a first plurality of keywords and a

4   plurality of associated information source identifiers to facilitate augmented provision

5   by a browser of a coupled client system dynamically assembled information source

6   identifiers, based at least in part on dynamically determined content of a first

7   retrieved information page being browsed on said client system.

1   40.   The server system of claim 39, wherein the server system further comprises

2   a keyword database, having a second plurality of keywords and said first

3   plurality of keywords, the first keywords being related to said second keywords, to

4   facilitate determination of presence ones of first keywords in said first retrieved

5   information page being viewed, and to facilitate determination of related second

6   keywords of said presence ones of first keywords, for use to perform said facilitation

7   of augmented provision by said browser of a plurality of dynamically assembled

8   information source identifiers.

1   41.   The server system of claim 39, wherein the server system further comprises a

2   lexical analyzer to facilitate determination of unique nouns in said first retrieved

3   information page being browsed, for use in said determination of presence ones of

4   first keywords in said first retrieved information page being browsed.

1   42.   The server system of claim 39, wherein the server system further comprises a

2   dithering module to dither a second retrieved information page to generate a

3   thumbnail of the second retrieved information page.

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